

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: When the Sound of Silence Shattered: 8th Grade Civil Rights Quiz

Examine the grassroots strategies and judicial milestones that dismantled Jim Crow laws during the foundational years of the movement.

1. Which 1963 event saw thousands of students in Birmingham, Alabama, march against segregation, facing police dogs and fire hoses?

Answer: A) The Children's Crusade

The Children's Crusade was a pivotal nonviolent protest where young people took the lead in the Birmingham campaign, shifting public opinion nationwide.

2. True or False: The 'Greensboro Four' were college students who began the sit-in movement at a Woolworth's lunch counter in 1960.

Answer: A) True

Four African American college students in North Carolina refused to leave a segregated lunch counter, sparking a wave of similar sit-ins across the South.

3. The lawyer who successfully argued the Brown v. Board of Education case and later became the first Black Supreme Court Justice was _____.

Answer: B) Thurgood Marshall

Thurgood Marshall was the lead counsel for the NAACP and made history by ending legal school segregation before joining the high court.

4. Which organization was founded by Ella Baker and focused on giving younger activists a voice through 'jail-no-bail' tactics?

Answer: C) The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC)

SNCC (pronounced 'snick') was formed to give students a larger role in the movement, organizing sit-ins and voter registration drives.

5. True or False: The 24th Amendment to the Constitution made it illegal to require a poll tax in federal elections.

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Answer: A) True

The 24th Amendment removed financial barriers (poll taxes) that were specifically designed to prevent low-income Black citizens from voting.

6. In 1964, hundreds of volunteers went to Mississippi to register Black voters and set up schools during a project known as _____.

Answer: B) Freedom Summer

Freedom Summer was a volunteer campaign aimed at increasing voter registration in the highly segregated state of Mississippi.

7. Who was the first African American student to integrate the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) in 1962?

Answer: A) James Meredith

James Meredith's enrollment was a major victory against state-supported segregation in higher education, requiring federal marshals for protection.

8. True or False: The Civil Rights Act of 1964 only applied to voting rights and did not affect public places like restaurants.

Answer: B) False

The 1964 Act was comprehensive; it banned discrimination in public accommodations (hotels, restaurants) as well as in employment.

9. Fannie Lou Hamer is best known for her testimony about voter suppression representing which political group?

Answer: B) The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP)

Fannie Lou Hamer challenged the all-white Mississippi delegation at the 1964 Democratic National Convention, bringing national attention to disenfranchisement.

10. The strategy of 'nonviolent direct action' was heavily influenced by the teachings of _____, which were adopted by leaders like MLK Jr.

Answer: A) Mahatma Gandhi

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Gandhi's success with nonviolent resistance in India provided a blueprint for the American Civil Rights Movement's peaceful protests.